



Advisory
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Contacts:

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

DWR MONITORS RIVER CONDITIONS

SACRAMENTO -The Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced today it is closely monitoring conditions as heavy rainfall and snowmelt pushes many Northern California rivers to near-or-above flood stage.

The California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) in Sacramento will be staffed until 10 p.m. tonight and move to around-the-clock status tomorrow. Currently, the CNRFC predicts at-or-near flood stage levels at all Sacramento River forecast points from Bend Bridge above Red Bluff to Vina Woodson Bridge near Corning and at Ord Ferry near Hamilton City. The CNRFC is one of 13 National Weather Service River Forecast Centers in the United States. It is a cooperative venture of DWR, the Sacramento National Weather Service Forecast Office, and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and has hydrologic forecast responsibility for California, most of Nevada, and a portion of Southern Oregon.

DWR's Flood Management Division reports that all Sacramento River weirs are expected to be in operation during the current storm. The Colusa weir should be flowing tomorrow, the Moulton weir as early as Thursday afternoon, and the Fremont weir by Saturday. Thanks to the Colusa weir, a levee under construction near Colusa should have no less than three feet of freeboard even with heavy precipitation and Keswick releases, which are currently at 38,000 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Notification calls have gone out to all affected agencies.

Other conditions worth noting: the Merced River at Pohono has dropped below flood stage but will stay high for some time. Flood stage is also possible on the Susan River at Susanville. Other eastside streams will also be running high, except for the Truckee. Other forecasted monitor stages include the Scott River at Fort Jones and the Eel River at Ferndale. Currently the Humboldt River is above flood stage at many locations in Nevada.

The precipitation forecast in the North Coast and upper Sacramento Basins remains much as it was yesterday although more intense in the Shasta drainage and wetter in the Feather

Basin. About three and a half inches are expected in the Feather Basin tonight through Friday. Snow levels should be near 7,500 feet tomorrow then rise to 9,500 feet by Thursday. A ridge of high pressure will move in for the weekend, raising snow lines to 14,000 feet with temperatures in the 80s and possibly 90s in the Valley.

State Water Project operators have no plans to change releases from Lake Oroville, currently at 1,100 cfs. The federal Central Valley Project is currently releasing 12,000 cfs from Nimbus and will likely match outflow to inflow.

DWR will also be analyzing updated snow melt forecasts and close scrutiny will be given to the San Joaquin River system.

The telephone number for the CNRFC is (916) 979-3056.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

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